

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0907

July 12, 2006

Flagler County Residents
Florida's Seventh Congressional District

Dear Friends:

As your Representative in Congress, I wanted to provide a brief update on a number of Flagler County projects in which I have been involved and that may be of interest to you.

One of the most important resources of our 7th Congressional District and Flagler County is our beaches. Unfortunately, over the past years storms and erosion have taken a toll on our coastline. With another storm season looming, it is important that all levels of government work together to find solutions and take action. Both our beaches and Scenic Highway A1A must be preserved.

On May 1st, in order to find an expedited and cost-effective solution to the problem of beach and highway erosion, I brought together elected leaders from the Cities of Flagler Beach and Beverly Beach along with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Transportation and Flagler County. As a result of this meeting, a consensus has been developed on the need to complete a federal feasibility study by the Army Corps, and to pursue a State and local demonstration project to test new beach stabilization technology.

In Congress, I will be working to secure additional federal support for the initial work and approval for the demonstration project. Flagler County's beaches are a great natural asset and A1A is a critical infrastructure link as well as a scenic national highway. Unfortunately securing permits and millions of dollars in funding for these projects may take years but we are able to proceed. As you may know, I was successful in obtaining two previous federal grants for beginning our beach restoration efforts.

Even with Flagler County's challenges as the fastest growing county in the United States, progress is being made to keep up with highway needs and congestion. Six-laning Flagler's 18.6 miles of I-95 began last March, 2005 and should be completed by the end of this year. Also underway is construction of a new overpass at the junction of I-95 and the Matanzas Woods Parkway. In anticipation of reimbursement from the State, Flagler County has committed funds to advance construction by four years. This new overpass, scheduled for opening in December, will improve traffic circulation and provide new, much needed access to an Emergency Evacuation Route. I was pleased to aid local and State officials in the future expansion of this junction to an I-95 interchange.

Federal and State assistance and local cooperation is helping to expedite the schedule for widening of the I-95/Palm Coast Parkway overpass and construction of an interchange with I-95. With our community being first in population growth both in Florida and in our nation, these projects are vital to our future.

Work is also proceeding on the U.S. 1 / S.R. 100 intersection located in the City of Bunnell, which has become a regional bottleneck and causes major traffic congestion for surrounding roadways. New federal funds have been approved for improvements to this intersection which will help alleviate traffic and also will serve as the keystone for the development of a regional industrial park facility. Since it can be difficult to get around Flagler County without an automobile, improving seniors transportation services is another project that has been undertaken. We have been successful in obtaining federal resources to replace and modernize Flagler's fleet of buses.

To assist seniors and veterans, we are also working on several other projects. Prior to the May 15th deadline for enrollment in the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, we contacted all seniors in the 7th Congressional District with information, conducted workshops and surveyed participants for their comments and suggestions. Today a majority of those have lowered their costs of medications and are pleased with their coverage. However, we must continue to bring down health care costs for all Americans.

I am pleased to report the recent opening of a new wing of the William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic, which will provide expanded health care services to the Flagler-Halifax area. I recently toured the St. Augustine veterans clinic that has also added facilities to accommodate our growing veterans population.

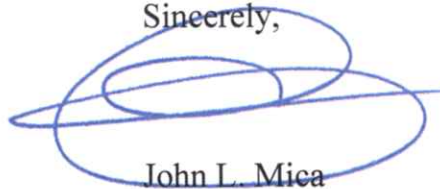
There are two other projects important to Flagler residents that have my support. The Stuart F. Meyer Hospice Center will provide terminal care to Flagler residents. Another project is the Florida Agriculture Museum, an educational facility that highlights the importance of agriculture to our economy and cultural history.

While this brief update only touches on a few of the local projects in our community, I hope that you find it informative. Currently there are many important issues before Congress including immigration, tax reform, deficit spending, gas prices, national security and a host of matters vital to our future. Detailed information on my position and voting record relating to any of these national issues is available on the internet at www.house.gov/mica. You may also contact our Flagler County 7th Congressional District Office at (386) 246-6042 for assistance or information.

Please know that I always welcome your opinion and suggestions both on pending projects and national legislation. I hope you will not hesitate to contact me on matters concerning our community or issues pending before Congress.

With my regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal line extending to the right.

John L. Mica
Member of Congress